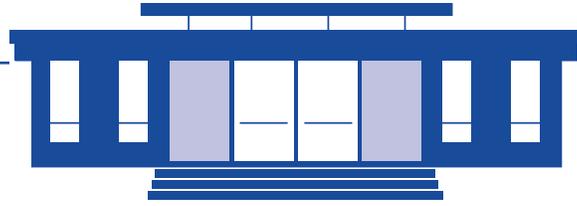


# GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2020



HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL

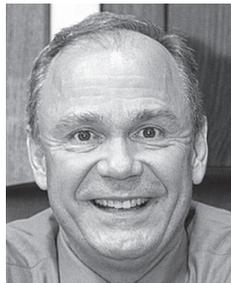
## NEW YEAR. NEW FACES.



**WARD 1**

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**WARD 5**

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## 29<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL EAGER TO BUILD ON TOWN LEGACY

### [ REDEVELOPMENT ]

Whether it's upgraded parking or banners promoting downtown storefronts, Councilman Roger Sheeman wants everyone to know: Highland is open for business. "We have a great community. It's something we want to promote and investors to know. We will be looking to residents to help us create a vision for our community and make it happen." 🐦

### [ QUALITY OF LIFE ]

Maybe it's way-finding signs that get locals and visitors to the Heron Rookery and catch some action at the skate park or a bevy of new community events that complement the town's much-loved celebrations, Councilman Bernie Zemen says quality of life is an integral component to keeping residents happy and inviting others to locate here. Stay tuned! 🐦

### [ COMMUNICATIONS ]

When communicating with residents and business owners, Councilman Tom Black said the group is committed to enhancing transparency. First on the list: live-streaming council meetings, exploring social media options and giving the website a fresh look. "We want to make it easy for residents to know what's going on. It's what's good for Highland." 🐦

**CRIME WATCH MEETING**

Join Police Chief Pete Hojnicky at this month's crime watch meeting and learn about Highland's 2019 crime statistics and 2020 goals.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. **JANUARY 8**

**WHERE:** Highland Police Department Community Room

**CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!**

The Highland Police department is seeking \$5 gift card or gift certificate donations from Highland businesses. Five or six prizes will be awarded at each Crime Watch meeting to encourage participation. Businesses will be acknowledged.

**INFO:** Please call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.

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**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

Send your suggestions to:  
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**NEW DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER BRINGS WEALTH OF TALENT TO TOWN HALL**

When Kelli Strbjak, fresh from completing a Masters Degree in Public Administration, went looking for a job, she didn't have to look far.

As luck would have it, Strbjak found an opening as Highland Deputy Clerk-Treasurer working as second-in-command to her former instructor, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin.

For his part, Griffin said he believes it is Highland residents and employees of the Clerk-Treasurer's office who are the lucky ones.

"Kelli is great for Highland, in terms of her natural abilities, applying what she learned in the classroom and her heart for public service," Griffin said. "Kelli came to us as an interim Deputy Clerk-Treasurer when her former classmate took a leave in September."

"I was thrilled with her performance in that transitional role and thrilled that she said yes when the permanent position became available," he said. "If you haven't met Kelli yet, please stop by Town Hall to welcome her." 🐦

**ABOUT KELLI**

Prior to her tenure in Highland, Kelli Strbjak was working as a criminal analyst for Griffith Police. The married mother of a two-year-old is finishing an MBA at Indiana University Northwest.

A self-described numbers nerd, Strbjak is enjoying her work at Highland. "There is something new going on here every day. I like our team and how we work together. Highland is a great place to be."

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED! CENSUS GOES DIGITAL TO ENCOURAGE MORE PARTICIPATION**

The U.S. Census Bureau will begin a massive nationwide promotional campaign this month to urge residents to stand up and be counted.

For the first-time ever in 2020, individuals and families can fill out their information online.

The Highland Complete Count Committee – co-chaired by Redevelopment Commission Assistant Lance Ryskamp – is assisting by:

- ✓ Raising awareness and encouraging participation by all Highland residents.
- ✓ Providing internet access, via mobile kiosks, to help residents fill out the census online.

Per state calculations, Indiana received approximately \$17.9 billion in 2016 from the federal government based on census data, or approximately \$2,710 per person. Ryskamp said every Highland resident not counted in the census is money lost to the town.

While online participation is encouraged, everyone will have the option to complete the form either online, by mail or by phone. 🐦



Highland's Complete Count Committee includes representatives of the Civil and School Towns of Highland, the Highland-Griffith Chamber, the library, faith-based organizations and more.

Learn more about Highland's efforts and census-related updates by following the Highland Complete Count Committee on:

**Facebook:** Highland IN 2020 Census

**Twitter:** @HighlandCensus

**Instagram:** @highlandcensus2020

**QUESTIONS?** Email the Complete Count Committee at lryskamp@highland.in.gov.

## Highland Business Spotlight



# REGION RECORDS

## Beloved spin doctor opening new flagship in downtown Highland

Josh Becerra was just 12 when he held his first vintage vinyl — the 1966 jazz classic *Dynamic Duo* by Jimmy Smith and Wes Montgomery — and he was hooked.

Midway through college, Becerra traded history lessons to become an entrepreneur majoring in filling a niche for collectors looking to find that oh-so-special music on vinyl.

The Valparaiso resident is on to something: LP sales outpaced CDs for the first time in 2019.

Later this winter, the 28-year-old will move his Region Records into the former Thrifty Klein Cleaners and Cobbler Shop on Highway. 🎵

### ABOUT US

Region Records is looking to purchase a treasure trove of vintage vinyl from local residents.

Interested?

Message Josh Becerra on Facebook or call (219) 513-8366.

### LOCATION

2716 Highway Avenue

### HOURS

1-8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
1-9 p.m. Saturday  
Closed Sunday-Monday

### SUPPORTING THE ARTS COMMUNITY ...

Region Records owner Josh Becerra is a huge supporter of local art. If you want to show or sell your work here, please call (219) 513-8366. Stay tuned for details about open mic nights and live music shows.



## BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

Online registration for Highland Babe Ruth and Travel Leagues starts **JANUARY 13** at [highlandbaberuth.com](http://highlandbaberuth.com) or in-person at dates/times below.

**BABE RUTH:** Ages 13 to 15

**SENIOR BABE RUTH:** Ages 16 to 19

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JANUARY 25** and **FEBRUARY 22**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center Room 109

**FEE:** \$200 per player

**NOTE:** Both divisions are open to any players who reside in Lake County, IN.

**INFO:** Call Lisa Stacy at (219) 381-5331 or [hbrinfo@highlandbaberuth.com](mailto:hbrinfo@highlandbaberuth.com).



## LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Boys and girls can register now for the following divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A and Majors.

**LEAGUE AGES:** 4 to 12

**WHEN:** 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday,

**FEBRUARY 5** and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, **FEBRUARY 22**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center

**FEE:** \$115 to \$175 based on division

**NOTE:** Players MUST turn 4 by August 31, 2019 and reside or go to school in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** Visit [www.highlandll.com](http://www.highlandll.com), where you'll also find registration and medical release forms.

**INFO:** Email [info@highlandll.com](mailto:info@highlandll.com).



## SOCCER CLUB REGISTRATION

Registration now for spring soccer.

**TRAVEL TEAMS:** The travel league consists of players ages 8 through 14. All players must provide a wallet-sized picture. New players must show proof of age and purchase a uniform — jersey, shorts, socks — from the club.

**IN-HOUSE TEAMS:** The in-house league consists of players ages 4 through 12, divided into three age divisions. All players receive trophies/medals.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, **JANUARY 18** and **25**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center

**FEE:** \$85 per player in person or online at [highlandsoccer.org](http://highlandsoccer.org) | \$5 nonresident fee | \$25 late fee after **JANUARY 31**

**INFO:** Visit [highlandsoccer.org](http://highlandsoccer.org).

**GET FIT IN 2020!**

Commit to a healthier you in 2020. Join the Lincoln Community Fitness Center and start working on a better you!

**>> PERSONAL TRAINING**

Need some motivation? Our personal trainers will help you reach your goals. Get one-on-one attention with the New Client Special: three sessions for \$109.

**>> SILVER SNEAKERS**

Lincoln Fitness Center is an official location for SilverSneakers, the nation's leading fully-funded Medicare exercise program for adults 65+. If you have a SilverSneakers membership, you are eligible for a pass to our fitness center and these classes:

- ✓ SilverSneakers Classic
- ✓ SilverSneakers Yoga
- ✓ SilverSneakers BOOM

To see if you qualify or to register, visit [silversneakers.com](http://silversneakers.com).

**INFO:** Visit [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) for more information about our fitness center, memberships and classes.

**BEACH GLASS ART**

Create your own beach glass and resin design. Beach glass, frame, resin, sand, shells and other beach-themed options supplied. You are welcome to bring your own special treasures to add. What a great way to preserve beach memories!

**WHEN:** 6:30-9 p.m. **JANUARY 23**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$30 residents | \$35 nonresidents

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or (219) 838-0114

**MOM-DAUGHTER PAINT NIGHT**

Mothers and daughters will enjoy a night of painting a picture together. Each will paint a 12" x 12" canvas that will go together to form one picture. Register by **JANUARY 27**.

**WHEN:** 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, **JANUARY 30**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$25/\$30 per couple | \$12.50/\$15 each additional daughter.

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or (219) 838-0114

**THE ART OF CROCHETING**

Have you longed to know how to create a lovely afghan or a beautiful winter scarf? Join us and learn how in this beginners class on the art of crochet. All supplies included.

**WHEN:** 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, **FEBRUARY 4 -MARCH 17** (off **MARCH 3**)

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$48 residents | \$53 nonresidents

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or (219) 838-0114



Dads and their daughters – ages 3 to 13 – are invited to enjoy dancing, light refreshments and DJ entertainment at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Photographers provide one free 5" x 7" photo. Extra photos are available for purchase.

## LINCOLN CENTER FIELDHOUSE

**RESERVATIONS through FEBRUARY 2:**  
\$30 resident couple | \$35 nonresident couple  
\$15 | \$17.50 each additional daughter

**LATE FEE FEBRUARY 3-6:**  
\$35 resident couple | \$40 nonresident couple  
\$17.50/\$20 each additional daughter

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Please call Lincoln Community Center at (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org).

**BALLROOM DANCING**

Move with rhythm and grace to all kinds of music. Partners may rotate throughout session. Leather sole shoes recommended.

**BEGINNERS:** 6 p.m. Mondays

**INTERMEDIATE:** 7 p.m. Mondays

**WHEN:** Mondays **JANUARY 13-MARCH 2**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$48/\$53 singles | \$91/\$96 couples

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or (219) 838-0114

**CARNIVAL & VENDOR FAIR**

Highland Parks & Recreation will host a free indoor carnival and vendor fair for special needs individuals. We'll have a bounce castle, basketball, volleyball, crafts, table tennis and more! There will also be wellness vendors on site.

**WHEN:** 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, **FEBRUARY 2**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or (219) 838-0114